

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/630,681  
Applicant : MARK HINDS, ET AL  
Filed : August 1, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 2633  
Examiner : Hanh Phan

Confirmation No. 7498

Docket No. : 13415  
Customer No. : 000293

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action dated June 2, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks:

**REMARKS****Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102**

In paragraph 4 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,654,802 (Oliva *et al.*).

Given below is a brief description of an exemplary embodiment of the invention and of the Oliva *et al.* reference, together with a discussion on how claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, and 19 are patentable over the Oliva *et al.* reference.

**An Exemplary Embodiment of the Invention**

In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a method of verifying if a fiber connection between a first optical component and a second optical component is correct is provided. The method involves storing a predefined connection model in a processing agent. A port